

Salem Lamartine 7:11:00 8/10/69

*Processional Hymn 249

*Choral Call to Worship

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

*Scripture I Samuel 16: 1-13

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Pastoral Prayer

Anthem

Announcements

WELCOME VISITORS

LADIES AID BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

10 NAMES 10th ANNIVERSARY

TURN INTO ANY LADY AID

END OF SEPT. DEADLINE

Offering Response, Prayer

Hymn 265

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 222

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

Men of God's Choosing

Text: 1 Samuel 16; 7b

"God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but Yahweh looks at the heart."

"God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances, but Yahweh looks at the heart!" This is what God spoke to Samuel when he was on the mission for God choosing the man to be anointed king. Samuel looked at the strong tall sons of Jesse and kept thinking this must be the one. But at each one the Lord said no, not ^{THIS} ~~the~~ one. At last Jesse had run out of sons, and Samuel inquired if he did not have one more. Jesse said he had but that he was out tending sheep. So they brought David in before Samuel and God told Samuel this one was it. So Samuel anointed him on the spot. This ^{LITTLE} ~~little story~~ is a wonderful story for it has so many messages in it. I have always liked to hear it because with each of the characters you can almost see them before your eyes. There is Samuel along with Jesse standing and waiting for each of the sons to come forward. And each son is different from the last one in many respects. Some are taller, some are short, some are athletic looking while probably a few look scholarly. And yet out of the entire group, the one chosen is the least likely. This is one big object lesson. To know that God selects His people in an altogether different way than we would. Look at the men God has chosen to be the men of the hour at different times in the Bible. Moses, a tongue tied individual who needed his brother Aaron to speak for him. King David, a mere sheep herder. The Apostle Paul, a very unimposing shrimp of a man, who persecuted believers in the Son of God. Peter, a poor fisherman and an uncouth person. These are just some of the ~~he~~ heroes of the Bible. Heroes who were far from imposing figures as men. Yet men who were what God wanted. Men who were willing to gamble their very life on the promises of God. We may well ask, why they followed so blindly and ~~xxxxxxx~~ believed so trustingly. The answer is the same as ~~that~~ it would be if we asked why men followed ^{FOR INSTANCE OR} Hitler. Why they followed Stalin? Why they follow any leader of men? It is because they believe. That is the only answer we can give. They do not doubt for one second that their leader is wrong. This is what we as Christians are to have as followers of Christ. But too often we stand and ask, "should I, or do I dare do this?" And we find that our answer is determined by not what Jesus would say, but what would

our neighbors say if we did this. Or what will our friends think of us? We tend to place our motivation on the whims and the judgements of humans. Our motivation should be to work for the Lord and if there are those who scoff and sneer, then let them. We are not living this life to please mankind, we are living it to do the will of God. If this means alienation of our friends or our families, then this is what it must be. A friend of mine married a girl of the Roman Catholic faith. This girl decided that she could not accept the Catholic teaching in many areas. She became a member of the United Church of Christ. Both she and her husband were fairly active members for a while. Then they drifted off and became like many people, church members without a church. A name on the rolls. But because she turned ^{PROTESTANT} her parents ignored her. Her old friends treated her with contempt. It got so bad that her mind began to become affected. Finally she was seeing a psychiatrist or a psychologist. Her problem stemmed from guilt feelings about leaving the Catholic church. She had been taught from little on that if she wasn't Catholic she did not belong to the one true church. She rejoined the Catholic church and the last I heard she was back to normal. Now this story could have had another ending had circumstances been different. Had her husband been the stabilizing influence he should have been, I believe they could have solved this problem without the girl almost going out of her mind. Had he been the strong Christian he should have been she could have remained protestant and not felt guilty about it. Now I am not saying that The United Church of Christ is The church, and there are no others. I do not believe this at all. But what I am saying is that a person from another religion should be able to accept the religion of her partner with ^{out} feeling guilty. If their love was strong enough they could have faced the ridicule of friends and relatives. The husband could have helped his wife to see that she was not all wrong in joining another church, that God accepts us and this is all that matters. It matters not whether we go to the U.C.C. or the Lutheran Church or wherever, just so we strive to Follow God. And here again the point is brought out that God will accept us when our fellowmen will reject us.

One other point about this story in Samuel is that it shows us a different kind of thinking than we are accustomed to. We tend to think in terms of appearance. If a person looks nice we like him. But if he looks like a bum ^{WE} tend to reject him. Appearances can be deceiving. But the one verse in this

